

Appl. No. 09/914,816
Amdt. dated January 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Original claims 1-18 were canceled and new claims 19-36 were presented therefor in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 30, 2001.

Claims 19-36 are amended by this response.

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or washing~~ installation (1) for narrow textile fabric (2), the narrow fabric (2) being passed through a dyeing ~~or washing~~ liquor, followed by removal of ~~the an~~ excess amount, wherein the narrow fabric (2) is guided along a width-adapted suction nozzle (6); disposed downstream of the dyeing ~~or washing~~ liquor, wherein excess amount of dye liquor is removed by the suction nozzle under equalization of dye penetration, especially in a region of longitudinal bordering edges.

20. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or washing~~ installation according to claim 19, wherein the removal of the excess amount takes place between two passes of the narrow fabric (2) through the dyeing ~~or washing~~ liquor.

21. (Currently Amended) Dyeing or washing installation according to claim 19, wherein the removal by suction is carried out at right angles to direction of movement (r) of the narrow fabric (2).

22. (Currently Amended) Dyeing or washing installation according to claim 19, wherein the narrow fabric (2) comprises inelastic material.

23. (Currently Amended) Dyeing or washing installation according to claim 19, wherein the narrow fabric (2) comprises elastic material.

24. (Currently Amended) Dyeing or washing installation according to claim 19, wherein the narrow fabric (2) is guided along the suction nozzle (6) by means of a screen belt (14).

25. (Currently Amended) Dyeing or washing installation according to claim 21, wherein the removal by suction takes place in the upward and/or downward direction.

26. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~
~~washing~~ installation according to claim 19, wherein the removal
by suction takes place horizontally and/or vertically.

27. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~
~~washing~~ installation according to claim 19, wherein the removal
by suction takes place at an inclination with respect to the
narrow fabric (2).

28. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~
~~washing~~ installation according to claim 19, wherein squeezing
takes place upstream of suction removal.

29. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~
~~washing~~ installation according to claim 19, wherein suction
removal is carried out from a plurality of narrow fabrics (2)
parallel to one another.

30. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~
~~washing~~ installation according to claim 19, wherein liquid
removed by suction is passed through a water separator (10) and
fed back into the dyeing ~~or-washing~~ liquor.

31. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~ ~~washing~~ installation according to claim 19, wherein the suction removal takes place through a plurality of layers of the narrow fabric (2).

32. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~ ~~washing~~ installation according to ~~claim 19,~~ for narrow textile fabric (2), the narrow fabric (2) being passed through a dyeing liquor, followed by removal of an excess amount, wherein the narrow fabric (2) is guided along a width-adapted suction nozzle (6), disposed downstream of the dyeing liquor, wherein the removal by suction from the narrow fabric (2) is carried out while it runs through spirally.

33. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~ ~~washing~~ installation according to claim 19, further comprising two deflecting rollers, and wherein the narrow fabric (2) is guided spirally while stretched out on said two deflecting rollers (20, 21) which are spaced apart from each other.

34. (Currently Amended) Dyeing ~~or~~ ~~washing~~ installation according to claim 32, wherein the removal by suction is simultaneously applied to fabric strands produced by spiral guidance.

35. (Currently Amended) Method of removing an excess amount of colorant ~~or washing~~ agent from a narrow textile fabric (2) which is passed through a dyeing ~~or washing~~ liquor in a dyeing or washing installation (1), comprising the further step of guiding the narrow fabric (2) along a width-adapted suction nozzle (6), disposed downstream of the dyeing ~~or washing~~ liquor.

36. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 35, wherein the narrow fabric (2) is passed a number of times in succession through the dyeing ~~or washing~~ liquor and subjected to suction removal by means of the suction nozzle (6) to remove an excess amount.